

Avian Influenza Update  
April 6, 2006

WORLDWIDE UPDATE

Human disease:

- The total number of cases confirmed by the World Health Organization since the outbreak began in 2003 is 191, including 108 deaths (56.5%).
- Human cases have occurred in the following countries: Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Thailand, Turkey, and Viet Nam. Four of those countries reported their first human cases in 2006: Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iraq, and Turkey.
- Reported events since March 20:
  - March 21: Azerbaijan reported that of 11 patients tested, 7 were confirmed to be positive for the H5N1 influenza virus. This included 5 deaths. Four of the deaths occurred among a family/close friend cluster. Direct contact with ill birds has not been confirmed, but dead swans were found in the area.
  - March 24: Cambodia confirmed its 5<sup>th</sup> human case. A 3 year old died from an illness that occurred after playing with ill chickens in the backyard. China confirmed its 16<sup>th</sup> human case. This case was the first reported from Shanghai, and the person died from the disease.
  - March 29: Egypt confirmed its 2<sup>nd</sup> fatal case, which occurred in a 30 year old following the home slaughter of chickens. Egypt has not reported 5 cases, 4 of which were confirmed by a WHO lab on April 3. All of the ill individuals worked with poultry; two died.
  - April 4: Indonesia confirmed its 30<sup>th</sup> case. The case occurred in a 20 month old and was fatal. Deaths had been observed among chicken flocks near the home.
  - On April 6, the WHO updated the status of avian flu in two countries. Egyptian health authorities have now confirmed 11 human cases of H5N1 infection. Three of these cases were fatal. In a pattern similar to that seen elsewhere, all cases have occurred in children and young adults, and all have a history of close contact with dead or diseased poultry. Cambodia reported its 6th case, in a 12 year old boy who died from the disease. Numerous chicken and duck deaths had been noted in his neighborhood.

Animal disease:

- Since March 20, animals have tested positive for the H5N1 influenza virus in the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, Georgia, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Sweden, and Turkey.

VDH ACTIVITIES

VDH is receiving an enthusiastic response to information provided at the March 23 Virginia Pandemic Flu Summit and a heavy volume of requests for additional information and guidance stemming from media coverage of the Summit. Several state agency representatives, private sector and local community leaders have expressed interest in continuing with the dialog started at the Summit.

VDH is reviewing and consolidating the Summit breakout session findings and recommendations. Once completed, intent is to develop a Plan of Action and Milestones to address all health and medical issues. Breakout sessions consisted of the following communities:

- Private Sector / Business
- Schools K-12
- Universities
- Local Government Executives / Administrators
- Law Enforcement / Judiciary
- Fire / EMS
- Social Services, Assisted Living Long Term Care Administrators
- Community Based Volunteer Groups
- Risk Communications / Media / Mental Health

VDH will develop a comprehensive report once review is completed. Building on the Summit, we recognize many planning issues focus on Infrastructure Maintenance / Restoration and Continuity of Operations Continuity of Government planning. We are coordinating efforts with other state agencies and the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness.

The recently updated VDH Pandemic Flu Response Plan has been posted on VDH Pandemic Flu web site and is undergoing internal and external review. All Summit materials also have been posted.

Local Health Districts are engaging their constituents in cross-discipline preparation and response planning. Early concentration has been directed at coordinating with local physicians and other healthcare professionals.

Recently we were advised of a National Governor's Association (NGA) initiative, supported by the Department of Health and Human Services, which will urge States to address (regionally) PanFlu NON HEALTH-CENTRIC Planning.

Dr. Kaplowitz addressed the Virginia Emergency Management Association on PanFlu issues on April 5 in Williamsburg.